Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I beg to withdraw the motion.

(The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.)

Question put:—"*That the demand of Rs. 55,500 under 'Demand No. XXXI—Uplift of the Depressed Classes' be granted.*

(Question put and agreed to.)

Demand No. IX—Forests—Rs. 2,11,110.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Sir, I beg leave to present for the kind acceptance of the House the demand of a total allotment of Rs. 2,31,900 for 1104 under 'IX Forests'. While I am conscious of the up-hill nature of the task that lies before me in satisfying the House of the justification for the demand in the face of the strong views expressed by many Hon'ble Members in the last Budget Sessions of this Council on the subject, I find that I have been considerably helped in my task by the general trend of the remarks relating to the subject of some of the non-official Members during the general discussion. I have also to acknowledge gratefully that my friend, the Hon'ble Finance Member, has so ably paved the way for me by his clear and concise enunciation of the grounds of justification for my demand. I believe all that I have to do is to fill up the details in the frame-work furnished by him, which task I shall now essay.

The main items of expenditure provided for the ensuing year aggregating to Rs. 93,618 under A are for collection of timber for transport by Tramway, which has been the main source of strong criticisms that have been brought against us. If we have worked the Tramway throughout the current year in spite of a recommendation of the Special Finance Committee to close it by Makaram 1103, and have again made the provision and propose to work it in the ensuing year also, I hope to be able to satisfy you that it is not because we have failed to carefully consider all the arguments that have been adduced against its continuance, but the facts and figures that I shall place before you justify its continuance even if judged solely by the financial results.

The net results of the transactions relating to the forests served by the Tramline for the current year and the financial forecast for the same in 1104 will be clear from the details given below:—

Receipts in 1103.

		Rs.		
1.	Sale proceeds of timber, etc., brought down by Tramway through Sirkar agency	2,19,800	0	0
2.	Sale proceeds of M. F. P.	900	0	0
3.	Sale proceeds of creeping cave	400	0	0
4.	" Nux vomica	100	0	0
5.	" veteria indica seeds	60	0	0

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		Rs.	A.	P.
6.	Sale proceeds of R. W. to M. & Sons	40,351	11	3
7.	,, Churuli to Luiz	2,292	10	8
8.	,, fuel to Potteries	120	0	0
9.	,, P. M. to T. E.	1,408	1	9
10.	,, fuel to T. E.	1,994	11	6
11.	,, Sleeper to T. E.	1,155	0	0
12.	,, Odas, bamboos, etc.	489	0	0
13.	Tramway receipts on account of private transport, etc.	49,500	0	0
	Total	3,17,571	3	2

Expenditure in 1103.

1.	Timber, etc., removed through Tramway by Sirkar agency	36,550	0	0
2.	Tramway dispensary	1,585	0	0
3.	,, maintenance	1,24,750	0	0
4.	Establishment charges	5,276	6	1
5.	Maintenance of building	95	0	0
6.	Proportionate supervision charges	15,000	0	0
	Total	1,83,256	6	1
	Net result in round figures	1,34,315	0	0

In this included the expenditure of Rs. 12,655 towards "capital".

Receipts in 1104.

1	Sale proceeds of timber, etc., brought through Tramway by Sirkar agency	3,24,443	0	0
2.	,, ,, M. F. P.	1,000	0	0
3.	,, ,, creeping cave	600	0	0
4.	,, Nux vomica	100	0	0
5	,, ,, Veteria Indica seeds	60	0	0
6.	,, ,, fuel and sleepers to T. E.	7,000	0	0
7.	Tramway receipts on a/c of private transport, etc.	15,000	0	0
8.	Sale of bamboos, etc.	250	0	0
		3,48,453	0	0

Expenditure in 1104.

1.	Timber, etc., removed through Tramway by Sirkar agency	90.648	0	0
2.	Tramway Dispensary	1,485	0	0
3.	Maintenance	1,14,500	0	0
4,	Establishment charges	5,300	0	0
5	Maintenance of buildings	100	0	0
6.	Proportionate supervision charges	15,000	0	0
	Total	2,27,033	0	0
	Net result	1,21,420	0	0

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It will be seen from the above accounts that we have realised in 1103, a net result of Rs. 1,34,315 from the forests, the working of which depends entirely on the maintenance of the Tramway and in 1104 we expect a net profit of Rs. 1,21,420 after meeting every item of expenditure in connection therewith. It may be mentioned that in the above accounts no item of revenue for which the existence of the Tramway is not solely responsible, though derived from Parambikulam forests, has been added, while under expenditure every possible item relating to the maintenance of the Tramway and the extraction of produce from the forests served by it have been included. For instance, under revenue, even value of tusks and elephants sold and seigniorage of timber sold from O.W.C. but removed by other means other than Tramway, etc., accounts has been omitted.

Under expenditure, even the supervision charges, the cost of maintaining Chalakkudi and Ernakulam Depots, where the produce is sold (to omit which reasons are not wanting) have been taken into account. It will, therefore, be seen to be comprehensive.

As long as such profits can be derived, of course, no one will want the abolition of the Tramway.

I may now be permitted to briefly refer to the reasons why the Tramway was not closed in Makaram 1103 as recommended by the Special Finance Committee. A reference to the report will show that it was not the Committee's purpose to close the Tramway as long as there existed material for transport. According to the accounts rendered to them, there remained at the time, for transport 8,000 candies of old timber and 25,000 candies to be newly extracted and removed, thus making a total of 33,000 candies which the Conservator of Forests proposed to remove in three years. The Committee wished to see this work done in half the time, *i. e.*, 1½ years ending with Makaram 1103.

In 1102, about 4,600 candies of fresh timber was got collected departmentally and 3,400 candies sold on seigniorage out of the 25,000 candies estimated to be standing in the exploitable areas. A quantity of 14,450 candies had been provided for collection in 1103, but owing to the cut that the Council was pleased to make under that item, it was possible only to provide for the collection of 4,050 candies and even the whole of this quantity could not be got collected as a couple of months of the best working season had elapsed before the necessary arrangements could be made and the work got started. Hence 2,253 candies only could be got collected in the current year. There

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is, therefore, left a balance of about 14,750 candies out of the estimated quantity pending extraction and it is out of this that 12,000 candies have been provided for collection in 1104.

I have tried so far only to show that there was sufficient justification from the financial stand-point alone for continuing to work the Tramway beyond the period specified by the Special Finance Committee for closing it and for proposing for continuing the work in the ensuing year also. Of course, that does not take us very far on to the way of a permanent solution of the thorny problem of the future of the Tramway. In order to be able to arrive at any definite conclusion, as pointed out by the Special Finance Committee, an exact account of the exploitable stock in the area that may be tapped by the Tramway has to be taken. It is proposed to make immediate arrangements for getting the now existing exploitable stock enumerated and their quantity ascertained, so that correct data for the solution of the question may become available. The work will be taken up early next month and it is hoped to be able to collect the above data before the next Budget is presented and before you have to consider the question of working the Tramway of 1105.

There is one other subject about which I wish to offer a few words of explanation, *viz.*, the question of elephant-capturing operations.

This operation had to be stopped this year because of the cut of Rs. 10,000 effected by this House from the item of expenditure provided in the Budget for the current year. The Special Finance Committee in their report para 146 page 54 has concluded thus: "If the Khedda System proves successful again the costly pit system may be given up at least in those forests that, like Palappilly, afford good facilities for such operations." It is clear from the above that the Committee was not in favour of completely stopping the operation but they only suggest the Khedda system instead of the pit system. Apart from the advantages or disadvantages and the practicability or impracticability of the Khedda system the existing pit system has been ordered to be continued on a small scale for the reason that, though we may meet with loss now and then, it is an honour to the State to have State elephants and the suspension of elephant-capturing operations will not be in keeping with the dignity of the State. Since the above orders were passed rather late, no operation were possible during the hot month in the Forest of O. W. C. Kadashing, and Palappilly. However a few pits in the V. P. A. sub-division of the Northern Division, where this is the best season for elephant-capturing, were covered recently and I am very glad to inform the

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House that a beautiful tusker about 3 *koles* in height was caught on the night of the 14th instant, *i.e.*, the day previous to the day on which this session of the Council began. (*Hear, hear.*) I consider that a very good omen for me to make the demand under this item and for the House to pass the same. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now there are written complaints from the villagers of forest adjoining village near Palappilly that wild elephants do a lot of damages to their crops, etc. I have myself seen recently traces of wild elephants having roamed about in the Pothundy Forests. I have neither seen nor heard of wild elephants roaming about in these forests during the 30 years of my service in this Department. The only reason for such ingress of wild elephants into assigned and cultivated lands is the facility afforded to them to freely roam about by not covering pits for capturing.

Shooting wild elephants is a very severe offence under Forest Regulation and hence no one would dare to shoot them even to scare them away. If, therefore, elephant-capturing operations are not continued, ravages of wild elephants in cultivated lands are likely to increase, and I would request the House to approve of the Government action and to sanction the demand under this item in full.

I shall now go into the variations in expenditure for 1104 under the different heads and the reasons for the same.

A comparison of the Budget estimate of 1104 with the revised estimate of 1103 will show a difference of Rs. 55,554 under "Timber, etc., removed by Sirkar Agency.". The increase in expenditure in 1104 is due to the fact that more quantity of timber has been proposed for extraction. The allotment of Rs. 93,618 asked for is to meet the collection, loading, etc., charges on 12,000 candies of timber proposed to be extracted by Departmental Agency in 1104. The difference of Rs. 363 under 'timber, etc., removed by customers and purchasers' is due to the provision for marking more trees in 1104 than in 1103. The provision made for the purchase of three boats for use in the Southern Division and one copper vessel to the E. V. has shown an increase of Rs. 565 under "stores and elephants". As the elephant capturing operations have been proposed to be renewed in 1104, provision for padding, covering and watching elephant pits, kraaling and training of new captures, etc., has been made. This accounts for the increase of Rs. 6,868 under "elephants" out of the total amount of Rs. 13,065 asked for under this item. Rs. 7,265 is required for up-keep of the elephants now with the Department and the balance of Rs. 5,800 for conducting capturing operation. The difference of Rs. 419

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under "communications and buildings" is due to the proposal taking less number of building for repairs in 1104. The total demand under "sowing and planting" is Rs. 15,000, out of this Rs. 10,715 is required for the maintenance of the existing plantation and the balance of Rs. 4,285 for opening up new plantations during the year. With the extention of plantations year after year the maintenance cost is also increasing. Unlike in 1103 expenditure under " miscellaneous " and "refunds" is expected to be kept down and this accounts for the decrease of Rs. 913 and Rs. 600 respectively under the above head. Under " establishments " (B 1 to B 6) provision for the increments due to the subordinates and for leave allowance to be paid has been made. Hence the difference of Rs. 800 in the above item. The increase of Rs. 359 under 'local allowance' is due to the fact that the originally anticipated amount was not expended in 1103. The other items do not call for any remarks.

In the light of the above explanations, I hope the House will be pleased to pass the various items of my demand in full.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—On a point of information. Sir, you were now saying two things clubbed together, Forest and Tramway. May I just know what justification there is for the Tramway being kept as a major item ? I think it is only a career of the Forest exploitation.

President.—For the sake of convenience.

Mr K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I only want to know whether there is special reason for clubbing them together.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—There will be objection to have the Tramway itself taken out of the budget. But the whole thing is included under the head 'Forest' itself. It is under "Forests".

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Because it is under a separate Head of Department it needs no major head.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What is the total quantity of rose-wood, teak-wood and jungle-wood to be transported in 1104?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Seven thousand candies of teak and rose-wood, three thousand candies of jungle-wood.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What is the rate per mile for conveying it from the forest to Chalakkudi by Tramway ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Three annas six pies for rose and teak-wood and 2½ annas for jungle-wood.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—What is the total cost of elephant capturing in 1103?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—There was no provision for elephant capture in 1103. One elephant was caught accidentally.

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Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—You budget at the rate of Rs. 7 for teak, Rs. 10 for rose-wood and Rs. 6 for jungle-wood. How do you put it? What is the cause of this difference?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Tenders have been called for the contract and this is the tendered rate.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—So the figures quoted are in excess.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—When we call for tenders it may come down, and the rate of tender will depend upon the distance between the Tram and the workshop.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Instead of Rs. 5—15 why should you go to Rs. 10?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The budget was prepared in Medam. We called for tenders for cutting and removal of timber and the tender will be the same in all cases.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The principle is the same as in P. W. D.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Is the contract for collecting rose-wood and teak-wood in 1104 already given?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Yes, two contracts.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—When was it given?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Only very recently.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know the rates and exact dates?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We received the estimates yesterday.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The file is not here.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—In 1102 for 'Demarcation, Survey, etc'., it is only Rs. 1,175, but this year it is twelve thousand. Why this abnormal difference? (Vide page 30, vi A.)

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—For exclusion work, survey of rubber estates and survey taken up in Talapalli Taluk.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Any tender called for the supply of sleepers?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the rate this year?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I do not remember the exact rate. It is nearly 5 as. 6 ps.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Different rates for different sizes! I thought you wanted *Choorily*. I think the rate for *Choorily* is 5 as. 6 ps.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—That is the rate for collection.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Kindly give us the rates.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Oh yes.

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Motion No. 1.

A. Conservancy and Works.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 93,618 for '1, Timber and other produce removed from the Forests by Sirkar Agency' by Re. 1.*

(*The Member was absent and hence the motion was considered withdrawn.*)

Motions Nos. 2—5.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 93,618 for '1, Timber and other produce removed from the Forests by Sirkar Agency' by Rs. 33,618.*

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—*Do by Rs. 25,000.*

Mr. M. K. Raman.—*Do by Re. 1.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*Do by Rs. 16,743.*

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Motions 2 to 5 may be taken together. It has been agreed that Mr. A. B. Salem will move this as a Party cut and will head it. Motions Nos. 2, 3 and 4 may be considered as withdrawn.

(*Motions 2, 3 and 4 were considered withdrawn.*)

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 93,618 for '1, Timber and other produce removed from Forests by Sirkar Agency' by Rs. 16,743.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I move for a reduction of rupees 16,740 from the allotment asked for 'timber and other things removed from forests by Sirkar Agency.' I know that 12 thousand candies is the total quantity that is expected to be removed by the Department in 1104. If I am wrong in stating figures, I may be corrected by the Hon'ble Member for Forests. Of 12 thousand candies, seven thousand candies are teak, two thousand rose-wood, and the remaining three thousand jungle-wood. You have budgetted, Sir, Rs. 49,000 for the seven thousand candies of teak at Rs. 7 a candy, Rs. 20,000 for two thousand candies of rose-wood at Rs. 10 per candy and the remaining at the rate of Rs. 6; and the total of that comes to Rs. 87,000. Fortunately for us, Sir, the Government had already entered into a contract with Messrs. A. R. Joseph and Rowther for the collection of 7,000 candies of teak and 2,000 candies of rose-wood. Am I right, Sir? And the rates are..... May I know what the rates are? I have got rates, but I wish to have it from the Government.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Five thousand four hundred candies of teak and rose-wood at Rs. 5-10-0, 2,700 candies of the same at Rs. 5-15-0 and 900 candies of jungle-wood at Rs. 8-6-0.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—On the average it works out to Rs. 7 a candy. Some one may be asked to calculate the exact figure. I can do it. But that will take time. And for the jungle-wood you have budgetted at Rs. 6 a candy. I leave that as it is. Rs. 18,000 for that and have the figures like that. Take it to be roughly correct. Therefore, I confine myself to the cut of Rs. 16,000 and odd, which would give the Department more money for the removal of the whole quantity that they have budgetted, and, therefore, this cut is a necessary one, and it does not dislocate any of the business of the Department at all, and I hope the Government Member may accept the cut.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I support the motion. From the information given by the Hon'ble Member for the Forests at the beginning, this is an inflated item shown in the budget. The budget estimate is to collect 7,000 candies of teak at Rs. 7 per candy, 2,000 candies of rose-wood at Rs. 10 and 3,000 candies of jungle-wood at Rs. 6, thus incurring a total expenditure of Rs. 49,000 plus 20,000 plus 18,000, *i. e.*, Rs. 87,000 in all. It is admitted there is at present a contract to work behind D1, D3, D4 and D11 coupes of 700 candies of teak and 900 candies of jungle-wood at Rs. 5-15-0 and if there is such a low contract, to show such an exorbitant figure as Rs. 7, Rs. 10 and Rs. 6 per candy, which is admittedly higher than what it at present necessitates, is no doubt very bad. According to the present rate of Rs. 5-15-0, the total expenditure for 7,000 plus 2,000 plus 3,000 candies will be Rs. 71,250. Deducting this from Rs. 87,000 an excess of Rs. 15,750 is budgetted. There is another matter which we want to bring to the notice of the Government. There is a complaint that sales of timber in the Forest Department are not made by public auction and there is considerable difficulty to inspect the timber since the timber for sale is very often in the hills and intending purchasers are not allowed to go there without the special permission of the Conservator. This matter was brought to the notice of the Government by my Hon'ble friend, the Member for Jews, by question No. 134 of the Budget Session of 1102 and the Conservator held out the hope that he would change this practice and bring down the timber to the plains and hold auctions there. I find even now tenders are invited for sale of timber lying in the hills. There is another matter also which the Government must seriously consider. We find there is considerable difference while timber is measured in the hills and when the same quantity of timber is measured down the hills. In both places timber is measured by one and the same official. This matter was also brought to the notice of the Government by the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi by one of his

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searching questions, question No.41 of the Legislative Session of 1103. From the figures supplied in the answer, in the year 1100 the Hill Depot measurement for the quantity of rose-wood supplied to Mr. Mugaseth is 1,805 candies, and when the timber came down, it was reduced by 613 candies. The one and the same officer measures. I do not know how the difference is brought about. In 1102 the Hill Depot measurement of the same contract was 1,403 candies which was reduced in the plains by 415 candies. In 1102 it was 678 in the hills and it was reduced to 302 in the plains. So we find considerable reduction, and it is a matter which the Conservator was not able to explain satisfactorily when supplementary questions were addressed to him. These two great irregularities are only proved samples of the maladministration in the Department and exhibit why considerable loss occurs in this Department. Answers to question No. 94 of this session show that in the Adhirappilli coupe contract with Mr. Mugaseth the Government got only rupees 17,164-8-9 for selling 4,628-22-6-3¾ candies of good timber. All is not fair here. I support this motion.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—On a point of information. Sir, from the figures quoted, the expenses will work to Rs. 54,000 plus 18,000 rupees which will give the sum total of Rs. 72,000 roughly. You take it as 93 and odd thousand rupees. The balance of Rs. 21,000 is unnecessary when contracts are already placed.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—But Rs. 93,000 include other items in the expenditure.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—In the light of the explanation that you have already entered into the contract, what is the actual amount that you want, that is the point?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Other items are included under the expenditure—what are they?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Seven thousand candies of teak, two thousand candies of rose-wood, three thousand candies of jungle-wood, unloading charges, expenses in plantation and sub-heads.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Unloading charges?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Seven thousand candies of teak at Rs.7 make Rs. 49,000; 2,000 candies of rose-wood at Rs. 10 make Rs. 20,000. Having the items together Rs. 69,000. According to the actual contracts that have already been given and the agreement taken the figure necessary comes to only 53,000 and odd rupees. Therefore 16,000 rupees does not touch this provision for other items at all. Therefore, that cut I ask the Government to accept. It is very clear. I do not take any other

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items at all. Have them all in tact. This difference between the actual contract rate and the original budget estimate gives over Rs. 16,000.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Only the exact amount for that is required. Regarding jungle-wood we have got provision there.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Please let me have the calculations once again.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Seven thousand candies of teak at Rs.7 comes to Rs. 49,000; 2,000 candies of rose-wood at Rs. 10 each candy comes to Rs. 20,000. Only two items we take. The total comes to Rs. 69,000. The actual amount as per contract comes to Rs. 53,000 and odd; therefore, the difference is what I desire to cut—that is the only reduction that I want to make. I got the figures from the Standing Finance Committee and I base my figures on them, so that no other provision is concerned in this.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I do not think that we require more amount than what we actually require. The estimate is based on approximation. When we enter into contract we get the actual facts. There is no objection to accept the cut.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Then I accept the cut.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—When it is calculated at the contract rate, the total comes to over Rs. 53,000, thereby making only a provision for a cut of Rs. 15,000 and odd. Is there any objection to reduce that cut by one thousand or so?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We have no objection.

Motion No. 6.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 13,065 for 'purchase and capture of elephants'.*

President.—Motion No. 6 by Mr. A. B. Salem.

Mr. A.B. Salem.—Sir, the next motions tanding in my name was to omit Rs. 13,065 for the purpose of capturing elephants. We want elephants to be captured. But the only difficulty is in the last Council it was found that as a result of the elephant-capturing operation a large sum of money was spent and the result was some elephants died. For several years the result was the same. Some elephants died in pits. That was the only sum-total of the results. Therefore, we may not be willing for such an expenditure. The proposal is now to revive the elephant-capturing operation and the point for consideration is whether the elephant-catching should be done by the Department or whether it will be more wise to let out that elephant-catching to private agency. Thereby we can get some money

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from them. Pits are there. They have only to be a little cleaned or re-done. Advance to some private agency some money to catch the elephant. Let then catch the elephant and hand them over to us and we will pay for them. If people are coming forward on these terms, I think that this provision will not be necessary. Otherwise, if we think that the Department must necessarily carry on, we ask you to give your opinion on the matter. Then we do not wish to cut the provision, and it may remain as it is. If by private contract you do this, the money necessary may be advanced to them—it will be very small. They have to spend their money, catch the animals and hand them over to us, and for every elephant caught according to the size they will be given the value. I think this system will be a saving and in that case the provision will not be required. I will not press the cut more in the matter. I leave it to my Hon'ble friend, the Member for Trichur. I will ask him to give the House further information.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Last time we moved this as a Party question, and naturally the question after discussion was accepted by the House. This question was also under the consideration of the Special Finance Committee, and it was viewed from different angles of vision, and I was able to say that the loss was due to extraneous causes. What those causes are I am anxious to place before the House, so that the House may come to a proper conclusion. The custom in other countries is, as soon as they catch elephants in the pits, they are disposed off, whereas what we do in Cochin State is the young elephants called tuskers are kept on as Government property. There is a rule or an understanding, I suppose, under which no tusker will be disposed off without the special sanction of His Highness the Maharaja. If these tuskers die, as livestock does sometimes, it will be a loss. Further the majority of the tuskers are small ones, and you do not earn with them any income by keeping them for a long period. Now, the tuskers cost a lot of money to the Government Department. They do not fetch any income for they are not hired for procession or used for carrying timbers or used as beasts of burden. The result has been that there are fifteen or sixteen elephants which do not pay while on an average Rs. 150 to 200 is required to maintain them, giving a net expenditure of Rs. 3,000 as loss, practically with no results. Therefore, what I want to show to the House is the operation of the system in itself is a disadvantage. Then what is the method of procedure to be followed by the Government? Make it a business proposition. Capture and dispose it off. But, as I had stated, there is a rule that no elephant should be

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sold off without His Highness' sanction, and further I understand that the Special Finance Committee came to the conclusion, as I have told you, that this should be run on a commercial line. Then, surely you will suffer more losses. But I have no objection to allow it to private agencies, but the Government may also carry on at a profit, provided they run it in a business-like fashion, instead of adopting a sentimental line of action. That is all what I have to say.

The House rose for the day at 4 minutes past 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

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